

Legislative Bulletin.....November 17, 2010

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H.Res. 1677 - Condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic upcoming elections on November 7, 2010 (Manzullo, R-IL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1677 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Denounces the one-sided, undemocratic, and illegitimate actions of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) that seek to legitimize military rule through a flawed election process;
- “Denounces the military regime's dissolution of the National League for Democracy and insists that no government in Burma can be considered democratic or legitimate without the participation of Aung San Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy, and ethnic nationalities and the full restoration of democracy, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;
- “Insists that Burma's military regime begin an immediate transition toward national reconciliation, and the full restoration of democracy, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;

- “Demands the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, detained Buddhist monks, and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;
- “Calls on the Administration to not support or recognize the military regime's elections as legitimate;
- “Calls on the Burmese junta to change the current flawed constitution by permitting members of the democratic opposition and ethnic minorities to participate in government and that these changes are made before the 2010 elections;
- “Calls for full accountability of those responsible for human rights violations;
- “Urges support for a credible and robust international inquiry to investigate the Burmese regime's war crimes, crimes against humanity, and system of impunity; and
- “Calls for the Administration to fully implement the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008 by nominating the Special Representative and Policy Coordinator on Burma and by imposing the required financial sanctions as soon as possible.”

This resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “The current military regime, officially known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), known previously as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), held multi-party elections in 1990;
- “Despite the threat and pressure by the military regime to vote for the candidates of the military-backed National Unity Party (NUP), the people of Burma voted 82 percent of parliament seats for the candidates of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, led by detained leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and allied ethnic political parties;
- “The military regime refused to honor the election results and arrested and imprisoned both democracy activists and elected members of parliament;
- “At the same time, the SPDC assigned a commission to draft a constitution on October 18, 2007, with 54 handpicked participants, in an attempt to ignore past election results, to lock in a process that excludes representatives of ethnic nationalities and the NLD from political participation, and to legitimize continued military rule;
- “The latest version of the draft constitution seeks to codify military rule by reserving 25 percent of parliamentary seats for military appointees, permits the head of the military to intervene in national politics, and ensures that key government ministries are held by military officers; and
- “It is impossible under the regime's 2008 constitution and 2010 election laws for the election to be free, fair, inclusive, or democratic.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1677 was introduced on September 29, 2010, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, and the House Judiciary Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.J.Res. 94 - Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War and reaffirming the commitment of the United States towards Gulf War veterans (*Michaud, D-ME*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.J.Res. 94 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the historical importance of the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War, which began on August 2, 1990;
- “Honors the noble service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of allied countries that served in the Persian Gulf since 1990 to the present;
- “Encourages all Americans to participate in commemorative activities to pay solemn tribute to, and to never forget, the veterans of the Gulf War;
- “Calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Gulf War; and
- “Reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its alliance with the Republic of Kuwait for the betterment of peace and prosperity in the Persian Gulf region.”

This resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “On August 2, 1990, Iraq bombed and invaded the Republic of Kuwait, thereby initiating the Gulf War;

- “On January 12, 1991, the United States Congress authorized the United States Armed Forces to help the Republic of Kuwait defend itself against the Iraqi invasion;
- “On January 31, 1991, the United States Marine Corps drove back Iraqi forces in the city of Khafji, in Saudi Arabia, supported by Saudi and Qatari forces;
- “Casualties of the United States during the Gulf War included 383 dead (of whom 148 were battle deaths), and more than 467 wounded;
- “Approximately 174,000 veterans suffer from Gulf War veterans' illnesses, including Gulf War Syndrome; and
- “Beginning in August 2010, various ceremonies are being planned in the United States to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War and to honor all Gulf War veterans.”

Committee Action: H.J.Res. 94 was introduced on July 22, 2010, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Veterans’ Affairs Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Con.Res. 259 - Recognizing the 500th anniversary of the birth of Italian architect Andrea Palladio (*Pascrell, D-NJ*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 259 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the 500th anniversary of Andrea Palladio's birth year;

- “Recognizes his tremendous influence on architecture in the United States; and
- “Expresses its gratitude for the enhancement his life and career has bestowed upon the Nation's built environment.”

This resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “2008 was the 500th anniversary of the birth year of the Italian architect Andrea Palladio;
- “Under the patronage of Count Giangiorgio Trissino (1478-1550), Palladio studied architecture, engineering, topography, and military science in his mid-twenties;
- “Palladio's designs for public works, churches, mansions, and villas rank among the most outstanding architectural achievements of the Italian Renaissance;
- “Thomas Jefferson called Palladio's `The Four Books of Architecture' the `Bible' for architectural practice, and employed Palladio's principles in establishing lasting standards for public architecture in the United States and in constructing his own masterpiece, Monticello; and
- “Organizations, educational institutions, governmental agencies, and many other entities have been celebrating this special 500-year anniversary, including the Italian National Committee for Andrea Palladio 500, the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio, the Palladium Musicum, Inc., the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, and the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America, as well as other Italian and Italian American cultural organizations, such as the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc., and the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC, Inc., with a wide variety of public programs, publications, symposia, proclamation ceremonies, and salutes to the genius and legacy of Palladio.”

Additional Information: Although the resolution is entitled “Recognizing the 500th anniversary of the birth of Italian architect Andrea Palladio,” November 30, 2010, actually marks the 502nd anniversary.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 259 was introduced on March 25, 2010, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s

no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Con.Res. 327 - To recognize and support the efforts of the USA Bid Committee to bring the 2018 or 2022 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to the United States (*Van Hollen, D-MD*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 327 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes and supports the efforts of the USA Bid Committee to bring the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup™ competition to the United States;
- “Encourages the President of the United States and appropriate Federal agencies to support the USA Bid Committee in its efforts to meet all requirements for the United States to host the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup™ competition; and
- “Stands prepared to give full consideration to a request by the President to provide support related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup competition, if the United States is selected to host this event.”

This resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “The United States successfully hosted in 9 cities throughout the Nation the 1994 FIFA World Cup™ competition, which was broadcast to billions of fans in 67 nations and set an attendance record of 3,600,000, which remains unbroken today;
- “The United States Soccer Federation has established the USA Bid Committee to prepare and submit a bid to host the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup™ competition in the United States;
- “Hosting the FIFA World Cup™ in the United States promises record-setting attendance and financial performance, allowing revenues generated by the competition to be used for the further development of soccer and FIFA’s objectives of positive social and environmental change; and
- “Pursuant to FIFA bidding procedures, the President of the United States and certain Federal agencies have issued guarantees that upon authorization or appropriation, would establish the conditions required to help make the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup™ competition the most successful in history.”

Additional Information: The last line of the “Resolved” section of this resolution has been changed and it different than what is currently available through LIS.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 327 was introduced on September 29, 2010, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which held a markup and approved the legislation.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1648 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day
and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of
adoption and the children in foster care awaiting families
(Oberstar, D-MN)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1648 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;
- “Recognizes that every child in foster care deserves a permanent and loving family;
- “Recognizes the significant commitment of taxpayers to support adoption, including the \$1,900,000,000 provided to support adoption through the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program, as well as the assistance provided through the Title IV-E Foster Care program to 114,000 children waiting for adoptive families, among other important programs; and

- “Encourages the citizens of the United States to consider adoption of children in foster care who are waiting for a permanent, loving family.”

This resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “There are over 423,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, and more than 114,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;
- “The number of youth who ‘age out’ of the foster care system by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has increased by more than 55 percent since 1999, as more than 29,000 foster youth ‘aged out’ of foster care during 2009;
- “46 percent of people in the United States believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care, and financial support in the form of an adoption assistance subsidy is available to adoptive families of eligible children adopted from foster care and continues after the adoption is finalized until the child is 18, so that income will not be a barrier to becoming a parent to a foster child who needs to belong to a family;
- “November 2010 is National Adoption Month, and November 20, 2010, is National Adoption Day, and activities and information about both are available at www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/activities.cfm.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1648 was introduced on September 22, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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S. 3774 - Extending the deadline for Social Services Block Grant expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following disasters occurring in 2008 (Sen. Cornyn, R-TX)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 3774 extends the deadline by which funds are available through the Social Services Block Grant, for disaster purposes, until September 30, 2011. The money was appropriated as part of the FY 2009 Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Additional Information: Originally, \$600 million was made available by the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 (H.R. 2638 in the 110th Congress) to be used for expenses resulting from hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters. The balance of this fund as of November 1, 2010, was \$152,529,933, according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

Potential Conservative Concern: The legislation extends the availability of this Social Services Block Grant funding through the end of FY 2011. This frees up as much as \$152 million of currently unavailable funding. This spending would not be offset with reduced spending elsewhere in the federal budget. Some conservatives may be concerned that there is no offset in the legislation. In addition, some conservatives may be concerned that legislation having an impact on the federal budget is being considered under suspension of the rules.

Committee Action: S. 3774 was introduced on September 14, 2010, and referred to the Senate Finance Committee, where it was discharged. The legislation passed the Senate on September 29, 2010, by unanimous consent, and was held at the desk.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at press time. However, the bill would have the impact of allowing \$152 million of currently unavailable funding to be spent.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Although the bill contains no earmarks, and there is no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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